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Jung, 15 Hauptstrasse, Heidelberg, or can be ordered through Geo. A. Smith & Co., 7 Park street, Boston, Mass.

TYPE-METAL BOXES FOR IMBEDDING.—I have before described the type-metal boxes and the method of using them in imbedding,¹ and should now add, what was unknown to me at the time, that the credit of introducing such boxes belongs to Mr. Geo. Dimmock. Mr. Dimmock also used for the same purpose *quotations*, such as are used by printers in filling blank spaces at the beginning and end of chapters. These quotations vary somewhat in size, and are sold at 25 cts. a pound.

Mayer, Andres and Giesbrecht recommend brass instead of type-metal for these boxes, and a wash of thin collodion, where it is desirable, to keep the paraffine in a melted condition for a considerable time, as in imbedding small objects in definite positions. The glass plate forming the base of the box is first wet with glycerine, and then the box is washed with collodion and placed on a water-bath in order to evaporate the ether. In this way a box is obtained in which paraffine can be kept for hours in a fluid condition without escaping between the glass and the metallic pieces. The box is kept on a small water-bath, made for this special purpose, while arranging the object under the dissecting microscope.

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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Dr. F. C. Noll has found a fluid which is very suitable for permanent preparations of delicate Crustacea and their larvæ, preventing their shrinking or becoming too transparent.

It is a mixture of equal volumes of Farrant's medium and Meyer's fluid No. II. It is never cloudy nor entirely dry, although it has such a consistency that air-bubbles scarcely ever occur. The preparation is sealed with asphalte or some other varnish. In order to prevent the cracks arising in the asphalte varnish, it is better, after a time, to pass over it a layer of transparent shellac.

Hydroids, small medusæ and other cœlenterates which have been hardened in alcohol and then stained may, the author says, be splendidly preserved in the above fluid.

— Mr. W. S. Kent has found potassic iodide useful in preserving Infusoria. It acts in a manner almost identical with osmic acid, and in some instances even more efficiently. The medium possesses the additional advantage of yielding no deleterious exhalations, which have to be carefully guarded against in the use of osmic acid. The formula for preparation is as follows: Prepare a saturated solution of potassic iodide in distilled water; saturate this solution with iodine, filter, and dilute to a

¹ AMERICAN NATURALIST, Oct., 1882, p. 781.

brown sherry color. A very small portion only of the fluid is to be added to that containing the Infusoria.

— Among the discoveries last summer of the U. S. Fish Commission is that of a deep-sea fish, closely allied to the very strange *Eurypharynx* dredged last year at the bottom of the Mediterranean sea. Drs. Gill and Ryder have studied the anatomy of this form, of which five specimens occurred, and have found that it presents so many peculiar features as to entitle it to form the type of a new order. Ten new genera and seventeen new species of fishes were collected in addition, besides new mollusks and worms.

— The Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club will hereafter be the organ of the American Ornithologists' Union. It will continue to be edited by Mr. J. A. Allen and his associates. This journal will doubtless be, as heretofore, the meeting ground of our ornithologists, and ably represent American workers in this field.

— Professor Zittel, of Munich, while in this country visited the collections of Professor Cope and the museums at Princeton and Yale, and was much impressed with their extent and importance.

— We regret to announce the suspension of the *Canadian Naturalist*, which the publishers announced in the last number issued, which was Vol. x, No. 8.

— Another prominent figure in the scientific world, the illustrious palæontologist, Joachim Barrande, died at Prague, in October, in his 84th year. He was the leading invertebrate palæontologist of Europe, and indeed of the world; his series of twenty-two large volumes, richly illustrated and elaborately worked out, will be a monument of his genius and industry. In 1872 we visited the illustrious savant, and were greatly impressed by his wonderfully fine series of fossils, especially Brachiopods, illustrating the variation of species. His interesting and very complete series of trilobites, from those evidently freshly hatched up to the adult forms, and his elaborate descriptions and figures of them would alone have made him famous. His cordial greeting, noble presence, affable and yet distinguished manner and genuine modesty, won all hearts. Barrande was an interesting, indeed a romantic character, and his name will go down among the heroes and martyrs of science.

He was early in life appointed tutor to the young Duc de Bordeaux. So strongly did he identify himself with the royal family of France, that when Charles X. abdicated, Barrande accompanied his royal master and friend to Prague, where he remained until his death, occasionally visiting his native land. So strong was his attachment to the legitimist party that he declined a nomination as corresponding member of the French Academy, though receiving honors from the leading scientific societies on both con-

tinents. His work was done in Bohemia, and his collections filled to overflowing the spacious apartments of his mansion in Prague, where he lived simply and unostentatiously, devoting his fortune to the preparation of the plates and text of his works, which he distributed with a princely hand. He belonged in every sense to the old régime. Faithful to the memory and interests of his royal master and to monarchist principles, he was inflexible in his adherence to Cuvierian ideas in biology, in his opposition to transmutation views, though his own striking series of intermediate fossil forms, in other hands, will bear another interpretation than he gave to them; but to whoever this task may fall, he could not discuss their relations to theories of descent with more gentle, suave firmness and less appearance of dogmatism than Barrande showed in his opposition to the newer views. One more link which bound the old and new school in biological science has died in the fullness of years and honors.

— Professor Oswald Heer died at Zurich, Sept. 27. He was born in 1809 near St. Gallen; in 1834 he became a privatdocent for botany and entomology in the University of Zurich, where in 1836 he was appointed professor and director of the botanic garden. Since the year 1853 his continuous series of researches in fossil plants have made his name famous. His works on the fossil plants of Greenland and Spitzbergen were notable, also his extended work and papers on fossil insects. His best known book, *The Primeval World of Switzerland*, in two volumes, was translated into English. It will always occupy an important place in a scientific library.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—Papers were read by Dr. Thomas Gill on the ichthyological results of the explorations of the U. S. Fish Commission steamer *Albatross* in 1883; by Dr. C. A. White on the character and function of the epiglottis of the bull snake (*Pityophis*); by Professor Lester F. Ward on an interesting botanical relic of the District of Columbia, and by Dr. C. V. Riley on manna in the United States.

Nov. 2.—Communications were read by Dr. George M. Sternberg, U.S.A., on Micrococci; by Dr. E. M. Schaeffer on further remarks on Manna, with exhibition of specimens; by Dr. T. H. Bean on arrested asymmetry in a flounder, with exhibition of specimens, and by Professor Lester F. Ward on Mesozoic dicotyledons.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Oct. 15.—The meetings are now held in the new building of Columbia College, 49th street and Madison avenue. The following communications were announced: On the strata of indurated shales between Bergen hill